# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4663
ANSWERED ON:18.04.2001
HEALTH PROBLEM OF LABOURERS IN ANDHRA PRADESH
AMBATI BRAHMANAIAH

**Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:**

(a) the role of the National Institute for Occupational Health;

(b) whether the NIOH (ICMR) have conducted any surveys of the health problems of workers;

(c) if so, the details of the outcome thereof, State-wise particularly in Andhra Pradesh;

(d) whether any camps have also been done by the Institute to observe and watch such ailments; and

(e) if so, the details of camps held, State-wise?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) The objectives of the National Institute of Occupational Health (NIOH), Ahmedabad are to provide a safe, healthy and comfortable environment for work and living through multidisciplinary approach. For the purpose, the institute has undertaken Research, Education and Services.

(b) NIOH has conducted many surveys on health problems of workers in various industries.

(c) The details of the surveys and their outcome State-wise has been furnished in the statement annexed.

(d) & (e) This Institute does not organize health camps, but conduct training programmes and awareness programmes for workers in industries to create awareness about occupational health problems and how prevantive measures could be taken.

Annexure

| State/District | Epidemiological study | Outcome/Findings | Control Measures Recom mendations |
|---|---|---|---|
| Andhra Pradesh | Prevalence of Asbestosis in | Dust levels 2-244 times | Intervention Measures |
| (1) Asbestos Mines in Cudappali District | Asbestos Mines` | more than TLV (2 fibre/ml) Prevalence of Asbeslosis- 11.5% Milling - 21.1% Mining - 3.3% Prevalance was found to increase with increase in duration of exposure | adopted in Asbesiosis Miling Unit Partial enclosures of jaw crusher,edge runner, vibrator & conveyer, alongwith Training in Health Education Programme with regard to use of respiratory mask & protective clothings. Dust levels came down to below the Threshold Limit Value (TLV) of 2 fiber/ml. |

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| Andhra Pradesh : (2) Asbestos Mines in Cudappali District cases in controls CIC of d1gG, 1gA,1gM significantly higher in exposed them in controls. | Immunological Profile of Workers having Asbestosis2 | Anti-cucler factor (ANF) JgG, IgA in asbestosis cases and non-asbestosis | |
| Andhra Pradesh (3) East-Godavari District Virginia tobacco 6,7,8,9 harvesters. The symptoms included weakness, giddiness, abdominal pain, nauses, vomiting, etc. The prevalence rate was high (53.29%) as reported by 289 toobacco workers Urinary exscretion rate of Nicotine and its major metabolite colins increased significantly among the subjects suffering from Green Symptoms. | Occupational Health Problems among Workers handling health problem among the tobacco | `Green Symptoms` was found to be a major occupational ltivation. | Workers were advised to use gloves during harvesting/cu |
| Andhra Pradesh (4) Oranophos Manufacturing & Formulating Medak District 34.5% Big joint pain-64.84% Production & Evaluation of Joints Problem among Pesticide Manufacturing Plant Workers3 Reduction of Serum IgA increased CIC | (A) Health Monitoring of Workers Manufacturing and Formulating Insecticides4 (B) Formulation workers showed decrease in Plasna Chofinesteras e Reduction on X-Ray | Exposure-related morbidity Neurological-21.21% Bye - 20.6% Skin irritation - | Suitable personal protective equipment have recommended for use. |

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| | of IgG in workers having joint pain | | |
| | Multiple joint affection in exposed large joint affection in controls Physical activity-aggravating factor Inhibition of whole blood ACHE Decreased Serum IgG Increased Serum C-4 in exposed group Urinary and Serum Fluride levels suggested that Flurosis could not be a causative factor | | |
| Gujarat State (5) Tobacco harvesters-10 | A Health Survey of engaged in tobacco cultivation and harvesting come in contact with tobacco leaves and tobacco plants and absorb Nicotine through the skin. Nicotine acts as ganglion and produce acute or chronic toxic effects, because of the acute toxicity of nicotine, tobacco workers suffer from nausea, vomiting, giddiness, headache, tiredness etc.,which is called `Green tobacco Sickness`(GTTS). | Tobacco workers suffer from tobacco sickness, | In order to prevent green |
| | suitable gloves are recommended which significantly reduce the absorption of nicotine through the skin. Trials of different types of gloves (cotton, nylon, polyester with rubber) are under progress to suggest efficacy of the Gloves. | | |
| Himachal Pradesh (6) survey in Cement factory-11 | Environmental-cum-medical bronchitis, dyspnoea and respiratory tract infraction was more in exposed | Prevalence of chronic devices llike electro-static precipitator and scrubbing system were installed. | Engineering control |

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| | workers as compared to unexposed and community control. The prevalence of pulmonary faction testing observations (PFT) was higher in exposed and unexposed workers as compared to community control. Mean valves of total dust were below permissible level (10mg/m-3) in plant-I,mining operation at coal yards, but in plant-II at Clinker conveyor and bagging department the levels were higher. | | |
| Madhya Pradesh Mansoor (7) workers-12,13 | Health Hazards of State pencil high in | The dust levels were alarmingly | Local exhaust system with air purifying |
| | breathing zones of cutters in big, medium and small units. Total-39.78,66.38,33.25 mg/m-3 Respirable - 0.04,6.78,15.4 mg/m-3 Reapiratoiry systems in 55.5% workers | been developed and installed. | system has |
| Gujarat Anand (8) Industry Workers-14,15 | Health Status of Agate follow up in 1993 | A study in 1987 and | Appropriate control |
| | suggested high prevalence of Silicosis (38%) and high respiratory morbidity in this worker. A study including present agate grinders, past agate grinders, family members and community subject and control has been initiated in | production were developed in collaboration with Gujarat Rural Technology Institution Significant reduction of Total and Respiratory dust levels (70-80%) were achieved. A new agate-grinding machine is being developed and the evaluation of | measures to reduce dust |

2000-2001. A new agate-grinding machine is been developed at present.

its efficacy has shown encouraging results.